

Abstract of the Disclosure

The upper end portion of a sheet-metal stud (14) fits upwardly into a channel space (22) formed within an upper channel member (10). The lower end of the stud (14) fits within a lower channel space (30) formed in a lower channel member (12). The upper end portion of the stud (14) includes a longitudinal slot (48) on each of its sides. Screw fasteners (52) extend through the side walls (16, 18) of the upper channel member (10) and then extend into and through the slots (48). These screws (52) include a head (54) a threaded shank portion (60) and a non-threaded shank portion (62) between the head (54) and the threaded shank portion (60). The non-threaded shank portion (62) is narrower than the slot (48) and is sized to slide relatively up and down in the slot (48). The non-threaded portion (62) of the shank (58) has an axial length d measured between the inside surface of the head (54) and a confronting surface of an end thread (64). This distance (d) is preferably slightly larger than the combined thicknesses of the side walls (16, 32) of the upper channel member (10) and the stud (14). The stud (14) is free to move up and down relative to the screw (52) and the upper channel member (10). Side forces on the wall are resisted in one direction by the screw head (52) and in the opposite direction by the end thread (64). The side walls (16, 18) are provided with a line of equally spaced apart dimples (70). The dimples (70) mark locations that may be selected to receive a screw fastener (52). The stud (14) is positioned in the channel members (10, 12) with the slots (48) in alignment with a selected dimple (70). A self-tapping end (56) of a screw fastener (52) is then placed into the selected dimple (70). The screw fastener (52) is then located for the purpose of it forming a hole through the base of the dimple (70).